

Message Text

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O R 261040 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 791

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAF NKP RTAFB

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 SAIGON 7263

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJ: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT APRIL 26 1973

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THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE
TO THE EMBASSY AS OF 1800 APRIL 26

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

PART I. ICCS: RECOVERY/ SURVIVOR TEAM PREPARES TO VISIT QUANG TRI
HELICOPTER CRASH SITE

PART II. TPJMC: DETAILS ALMOST COMPLETED FOR CIVILIAN DETAINEE
RELEASES, TO BEGIN AT LOC NINH APRIL 27 AND CONTINUE THROUGH MAY 1

PART III. RVN/ PRG BILATERALS: RVN ADVANCES NEGOTIATING PROPOSAL
AT EIGHTH SESSION APRIL 25

PART IV. HANOI/ VC PROPAGANDA: HANOI ANNOUNCES SULLIVAN- THANCH
MEETING; DENOUNCES GVN NEGOTIATING PROPOSAL; BLASTS SAIGON ON TRA
DETENTION STORY; ACCUSES US OF " ARROGANCE" IN VIOLATING DRV
AIRSPACE APRIL 19 AND 24

PART V. FPJMT/ MIA: AGREEMENT REACHED ON FOUR PROCEDURAL POINTS

PART VI. NUMBER OF POST- CEASEFIRE WAR VICTIMS ALMOST 300,000,
BUT MOST HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES; TOTAL REFUGEES IN CAMPS
LOWEST IN 8 MONTHS

PART VII. MR-1: LOW LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY

PART VIII. MR-2: LOW LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY

PART IX. MR-3: LOW LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY; ICCS GROWING
DISILLUSIONED

PART X. MR-4: MILITARY ACTIVITY MODERATE; ARVN INTELLIGENCE
PREDICTS CONTINUED ATTACKS ON HONG NGU, BUT NO MAJOR OFFENSIVE IN
NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS

PART I: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF SUPERVISION AND CONTROL (ICCS)

CONGEN DANANG REPORTS THAT THE PRG HAS AUTHORIZED AN ICCS
TEAM CONSISTING OF FOUR HELICOPTERS TO TRAVEL TO THE SITE OF
DOWNED HELICOPTER NUMBER 115 IN QUANG TRI. IT IS EXPECTED
THAT NUMBER 115 CAN BE REPAIRED AND FLOWN OUT. PART OF THE
REPAIR MISSION ARRIVED QUANG TRI CITY AT 0900 APRIL 26,
BUT SEVERAL HOURS ARE EXPECTED TO BE SPENT ON THE GROUND THERE
MAKING FINAL ARRANGEMENTS, AND IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE TEAM
WILL REACH THE SITE TODAY. THE ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDE THE
PRESENCE OVERHEAD OF AN ORBITING BEEHCRAFT VOLPAR AIRCRAFT
WHILE THE REPAIRS ARE BEING CARRIED OUT ON THE GROUND.

PART II: TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC)

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TPJMC DID NOT MEET APRIL 26. HOWEVER, FINAL DETAILS ARE ALL
BUT COMPLETED FOR RELEASE OF 750 CIVILIAN DETAINEES HELD BY
RVN AND 637 HELD BY PRG. THE FIRST JOINT RELEASE, AT LOC
NINH, IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 27 (X- PLUS 90). THE REMAINING
RELEASES AT OTHER SITES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY WILL BE PHASED
THROUGH MAY 1. (ADDITIONAL DETAILS SEPTEL. SEE PART VI FOR
INFO ON RELEASES PLANNED FOR MR-2.)

PART III: GVN ADVANCES NEW PROPOSAL AT BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS

1. AT THE APRIL 25 EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS THE GVN ADVANCED A NEW PROPOSAL, COMPLETE WITH TIMETABLE, FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN THE SOUTH. THE PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY REVEALED IN SAIGON BY FOREIGN MINISTER LAM AT A SPECIALLY SUMMONED PRESS CONFERENCE, IS IN THE FORM OF A PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD BE SIGNED ON APRIL 27, 90 DAYS AFTER THE CEASEFIRE, THAT DATE BEING THEREAFTER REFERRED TO S D DAY. THE PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT CALLS FOR A FINAL AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED ON D PLUS 30; THE LIFTING OF WARTIME RESTRICTIONS ON DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES ALSO ON D PLUS 30; THE FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD (NCNRC) ON D PLUS 60; THE PROMULGATION OF AN ELECTION LAW ON D PLUS 90; AND GENERAL ELECTIONS ON D PLUS 120 FOR " AN ORGAN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TO DECIDE THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF VIET NAM." THIS ORGAN WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINE THE " GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURES AT BOTH CENTRAL AND LOCAL LEVELS". THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ALSO CALLS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF " NON- SVN ARMED FORCES" IN SOUTH VIETNAM CONCURRENTLY WITH THIS POLITICAL PROCESS, THE WITHDRAWAL OCCURRING IN TWO INCREMENTS, D PLUS 30 TO D PLUS 60, AN D PLUS 60 TO D PLUS 90.

2. THIS PROPOSAL LEAVES MANY QUESTIONS UNANSWERED, PARTICULARLY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE " ORGAN REPRESENTATIVE" AND PRESENT GVN INSTITUTIONS, AND THE GVN OFFERED ROUND- THE- CLOCK DISCUSSIONS TO PERMIT SIGNATURE OF THE PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT ON D- DAY.

3. THE PRG DID NOT REPLY TO THE GVN PROPOSAL BUT REJECTED A CONTINUOUS SESSION. IT ADVANCED A LESS SPECIFIC PROGRAM OF ITS OWN CALLING FOR TWO PHASES OF DISCUSSION, THE FIRST TO DEAL WITH CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, RELEASE OF CIVILIAN
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PRISONERS, GUARANTEE OF DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS, AND FORMATION OF THE NCNRC, AND THE SECOND WITH ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND DEMOBILIZATION OF VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

4. NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR THE NINTH PLENARY . SEE PART IV FOR NEGATIVE INITIAL REACTIONS OF COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA TO THE RVN APRIL 25 INITIATIVE.

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
JAMJNO/ AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 4244
RUFNPSFAUSDEL JEC PARIS 1959
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCUNSUL NHA TRANG
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
CINCPAC
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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PART IV. HANOI/ VC PROPAGANDA

1. HANOI ANNOUNCES SULLIVAN- THACH MEETING . HANOI' S VIETNAM
NEWS AGENCY (VNA) ANNOUNCED TODAY(APDTWYL THAT DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY SULLIVAN AND DRV VICE FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN
CO THACH WILL MEET IN PARIS TOMORROW. ACCORDING TO VNA,
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THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS " TO PREPARE FOR THE REVIEW OF
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT," AND TO " SEARCH
OUT APPROPRIATE MEASURES" TO ENSURE ITS STRUCT IMPLEMENTATION.

2. COMMUNISTS LABEL GVN ELECTIO
RYROPOSAL " DECEITFUL, WRONG."

HANOI RADIO ON APR 26 DISMISSED THE PROPOSED DRAFT AGREEMENT
INTRODUCED BY THE GVN AT LWXCELLE- ST CLOUD THE DAY BEFORE AS
" ANOTHER TRICK TO DECEIVE PUBLIC OPINION, EVADE THE URGENT ISSUES,
AND DISTORT THE SPIRIT AND LETTER OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT." THE
BROADCAST STATED THAT VIET CONG
MINISTER NGUYEN VAN HIEU HAD
TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE GVN PROPOSAL " QUNED WYAY FROM REALITY
IN SOUTH VIETNAMZ" AND " RAISED MATTERS THAT WERE COMPLETELY
CONTRARY TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT" ' MEANING, PRESUMABLY, THE
WITHDRAWAL OF " NON- SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES"). (EMBASSY
COMMENT: NOTWITHSTANDING THEIR OWN SIX- POINT PROPOSAL,
THE COMMUNISTS' PERFORMANCE INDICATES THAT THEY PRESENTLY
HAVE NO INTENTION OF ENTERING INTO MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE WITH
THE GVN. HANOI' S QUICK AND NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE GVN PLAN
STRENGTHENS THIS IMPRESSION. END COMMENT) UN

3. PRG SPOKESMAN BLASTS SAIGON' S " BRAZEN MANEUVERS."

THE ACTING HEAD OF THE VIET CONG' S REPRESENTATION IN HANOI,
NGUYEN PHU SOAI, " CATEGORICALLY DENIED" SAIGON REPORTS TO
THE EFFECT THAT TRAN VAN TRA, HEAD OF THE VC DELEGATION TO
THE TWO- PARTY MISSION IS UNDER HOUSE- ARREST IN HANOI. SOAI
SAID THAT THIS REPORT IS AESVGU
COBHETK
;4-4,25?
/-, CQ G JNMOLATED TO " SPREAD DISCORD AMONG THE VIETNAMES
E PEOPLE."

(EMBASSY COMMENT: THE FACT THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD
REACT AT ALL TO THIS ABSURD STORY IS INDICATIVE OF THEIR NEAR-
PARANOIA WITH RESPECT TO THEIR PUBLIC IMAGE AND SUGGESTS
THAT THE GVN, WERE IT SO INCLINED, COULD CREATE ALMOST AT
WILL S OILAR HEADACHES IN THE FUTURE. THE " HOUSE ARREST"
REMARK WAS AN ATTEMPT BY THE GVN DELEGATE TO NEEDLE HIS
COMMUNIST INTERLOCUTOR ABOUT THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE
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TPJMC MEETINGS WHICH THENZVN BELIEVES IS LARGELY ATTRIBUT-
ABLE TO TRA' S ABSENCE AND HIS DEPUTY' S IMPOTENCE. THE
SAIGON PRESS, HOWEVER, REPORTED THE STORY STRAIGHT AND IT
WAS PICKED UP BY THE WIRE SERVICES (SEE APRIL 25 SITREP.)

4. HANOI AGAIN CONDEMNS US OVERFLIGHTS. HANOI RADIO GMZV
APR 25 CLAIMED
THAT THE JZ " INSOLENTLY" SENT AIRCRAFT TO SPY
ON " VERY WIDE" AREAS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HEARTLAND ON
APR 19 YND APIM24- THE BROADCAST CHARGED THAT THE US IS
BEHAVING ";#975)6" AND THAT ITS ATTITUDEIPS BECOMING

INCREASINGLY "MODD ARROGANT." (EMBASSY COMMENT)
 THE DRV ALSO ACCUSED THE US OF OVERFLIGHTS APRIL 20, THE
 ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF DRV AIRSPACE HAVING OCCURRED
 APRIL 19, SEE APRIL 20 SITREP.)

PART V: FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM (MISSING IN ACTION)
 (FPJMT/ MIA)

DURING APRILIPWY FPJMT/ MIA SESSION FORMAL MUMEEEMENT WAS REACHED
 ON THE FOUR PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS ESSENTIALLY AS AGREED UPON
 APRIL 24 (SEE APRIL 24 SITREP). THE US DELEGATION OUTLINED
 GENERAL PROCEDURES FORHEQE PRELIMINARY VISIT TO THE DIC DIED
 IN CAPTIVITY) GRAVE SITES IN NVN IN MAY AND REITERATED
 GENERAL PROCEDURES PROPOSED ON UVRVO 11 FOR REPATRIATION OF
 REMINS. THECG WAS LITTLE DISCUSSION ASIDE FROM STATEMENT
 BY THE DRV DELEGATION THAT DETAILS REGARDING REPATRIATION F DIC
 WOULD BE WORKEDUWUT DURING THE PRELIMINARY VISIT IN MAY. DRV
 DELEGATION AGREED TO US REQUEST TO INFOLW PRESS OF DRV DELEGATION
 INVITATION TO FPJMT T
 JVISIT GRAVES OF DIC IN NVN DURING MAY, 1973.

PART VI. NUMBER OF POST- CEASEFIRE WAR REFUGEES REACHES
 ALMOST 300,000

1. THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS DISLOCATED
 BY MILITARY ACTION SINCE THE CEASEFIRE HAS RISEN BY OVER 30,000,
 AND NOW TOTALS 299,400. INI EASED FIGHTING ALONG THE CAMBODIAN
 BORDER IN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE RECENTLY HAS ALONE RESULTED IN AN
 INCREASE OF SOME 28,000. HOWEVER, THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THOSE
 FORCED
 TO FLEE THEIR HOMES SINCE THE CEASEFIRE HAVSISINCE RETURNED
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TO THEM. AS OF APRIL 20, 1973, THE BREAKDOWN OF POST- CEASEFIRE
 VICTIMS BY MILITARY REGION IS AS FOLLOWS:

EST NO AFFECTED I
 OW IN STILL AWAY
 MR SINCE CEASEFIRE HOME AREAS FROM HOMES

1	54,800	26,300	28,500
2	26,900	26,500	400
3	127,100	127,11	0
4	90,600	81,000	9,600
TOTE			
S			
	299,400	260	
?00	38,500		

2. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN GVN
 AMPORARY SITES
 NOCONTINUES TO DECLINE. AS OF APRIL 20, THE TOTAL PH 602,800, THE

LOWEST FIGURE REPORTED IMCTHE PAST EQCHT MONTHSBK

NOTE BY OC/ T: SAIGON 7263, SECTION 2, CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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O R 261040 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
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AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
USDELJEC PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
CINCPAC
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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PART VII: MR 1

1. THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS YESTERDAY REMAINED LOW WITH TWO
GROUND ATTACKS, 17 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF' S), AND ONE OTHER INCIDENT,
FOR A TOTAL OF 20 IN MR-1. THE 1 ST DIVISION AO WEST OF HUE HAD
NINE ABF' S WITH A TOTAL OF 292 ROUNDS OF MORTAR FIRE, A RELATIVELY

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LIGHT DAY FOR THIS AREA.

2. I CORPS INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE APRIL 25 REVEALED HEAVY VEHICULAR TRAFFIC IN WESTERN QUANG TIN PROVINCE IN THE VICINITY OF KHAM DUC AIRFIELD AND NEWLY CONSTRUCTED PORTIONS F QL-14. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY EXAMINED YESTERDAY ALSO INDICATED INCREASED CIVILIAN SETTLEMENT AND NEWLY BUILT HOUSES IN THE AREA SOUTH OF BA TO IN SOUTHERN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE.

3. AMERICAN REP WHO IS AREA DIRECTOR IN QUANG NGAI REPORTS THAT GVN AUTHORITIES ARE PLANNING SEVERAL POPULATION RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS IN THAT PROVINCE. SOME 1,200 PERSONS WILL RETURN TO THEIR HOMES ON THE BATANGAN PENINSULA OF EASTERN BINH SON DISTRICT AT THE END OF APRIL. SOME 8,000 PERSONS ARE TO RETURN TO NORTHERN AND WESTERN NGHIA HANH DISTRICT AND SOME 10,000 PERSONS ARE TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE LA HA RECEPTION CENTER, NOT TO THEIR HOMES BUT TO PREPARED RECEPTION CENTERS IN MO DUC DISTRICT, CLOSE ENOUGH TO THEIR LAND TO ALLOW MANY TO FARM THERE DURING THE DAY.

4. COLONEL NGO VAN LOI, PROVINCE CHIEF OF QUANG NGAI, INFORMED AREA DIRECTOR THAT ON APRIL 25 HE VISITED FORMER QUANG NGAI RESIDENTS WHO WERE RESETTLED IN LONG KHANH AND BINH TUY PROVINCES, MR 3. HE IS CONSIDERING RECOMMENDING FURTHER RESETTLEMENT TO THE SOUTH FOR THOSE WHO CAN BE PERSUADED TO GO AND WHOSE RETURN TO THEIR HOME AREAS IN QUANG NGAI IS DOUBTFUL.

5. QUANG NGAI PROVINCE AUTHORITIES TOLD AREA DIRECTOR QUANG NGAI THAT TEAMS OF LABORERS ESCORTED BY VC/ NVA PATROLS ARE ATTEMPTING TO PENETRATE GVN AREAS, PICK UP RICE AND AMMUNITION FROM BURIED BUNKERS IN THE SANDY AREA NEAR THE MO DUC DISTRICT COASTLINE IN QUANG NGAI, AND RETURN TO THE WESTERN MOUNTAINS. THESE SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN LANDED AT NIGHT BY SAMPAN BETWEEN THE SONG VE RIVER MOUTH AND DUC PHO DISTRICT BORDER. IN AN ATTEMPT TO CUT OFF WHAT APPEARS TO BE A MAJOR ENEMY RESUPPLY ROUTE, ELEMENTS OF THE 5 TH ARVN REGIMENT INCLUDING ARMOUR ARE SETTING AMBUSHES.

6. JUDGING FROM THE AMOUNTS OF RICE FOUND IN CACHES AND CONFISCATED FROM ILLEGAL TRADERS, THE CURRENT VC TAX COLLECTION CAMPAIGN IN MO DUC DISTRICT, QUANG NGAI, IS LARGER THAN IN ANY
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RECENT YEAR. AS REPORTED TO AREA DIRECTOR QUANG NGAI, TAX RATES ARE ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF THE HARVEST AND YOUNG TEENAGERS ARE BEING USED AS TAX COLLECTORS.

PART VIII: MR 2

1. ENEMY ACTION REMAINED GENERALLY LIGHT, WITH EIGHT INCIDENTS REPORTED ON APRIL 25;; TWO OF THESE WERE GROUND ATTACKS THAT WERE MORE COSTLY TO ENEMY THAN TO RVNA*. FIRST WAS MORNING ATTACK ON REGULAR AND RECON COMPANIES OF ARVN 42 ND REGT NEAR PHU CU PASS IN BINH DINH. ARVN SUFFERED TWO KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED BUT IN RESPONSE REPORTED KILLING 14 ENEMY AND CAPTURING ONE MACHINE GUN, ONE B-40, AND FIVE B-40 ROUNDS. OTHER GROUND ATTACK OCCURRED IN KONTUM, ON AN RF COMPANY STATIONED APPROX 10 KMS DUE EAST OF KONTUM CITY. THERE WERE NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES, WHEREAS RF KILLED TWO ENEMY, CAPTURED ONE AK-47, AND LATER FOUND TWO MACHINE GUNS, THREE MINES AND EIGHT B-40 ROUNDS.

2. OTHER SIX INCIDENTS CONSISTED OF TWO LIGHT AFB'S ON ARVN POSITIONS IN CHU CU PASS AREA, THREE MININGS (TWO IN PHU YEN, ONE IN HOAI NHON DISTRICT, BINH DINH), AND SMALL- ARMS HARASSMENT OF RF COMPANY IN BINH THUAN.

3. PHU YEN SECTOR THIS MORNING BRIEFED AN ADDITIONAL " ENEMY INITIATED" INCIDENT NOT REPORTED IN NHA TRANG REGIONAL BRIEFING. VC UNIT ATTACKED RECON ELEMENT OF 210 TH RF BATTALION NEAR BAN THACH BRIDGE IN HIEU XUONG DISTRICT ON APRIL 25. TAKING NO CASUALTIES THEMSELVES, RF REPORTEDLY KILLED SEVEN VC AND CAPTURED THREE INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. TUY HOA POLOFF BELIEVES THIS CONTACT WAS ACTUALLY A FRIENDLY AMBUSH RATHER THAN AN ENEMY ATTACK.

4. OFFICIAL REPORT FROM NINH THUAN PROVINCE AUTHORITIES TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR DATED APRIL 24 INDICATES THAT FINAL CASUALTY COUNT IN EASTER SUN
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CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
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NEVER BE AGREEMENT IN REGION V CONCERNING A CEASEFIRE VIOLATION,
UNLESS IT'S ONE THAT IS CLEARLY COMMITTED BY THE RVN."

3. SAME SOURCE SAYS THAT HE SENT ANOTHER REQUEST ON APRIL 25 TO
ICCS SAIGON FOR A RESUPPLY MISSION TO AN LOC, AND FOR A REGULAR
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RESUPPLY SCHEDULE TO BE ESTABLISHED, HOPEFULLY THRICE WEEKLY,
EITHER BY AIR OR BY ROAD. HE SAYS THAT THE RVN IS NOW WILLING TO
GO ALONG WITH OPENING OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY 13 TO CIVILIAN TRAFFIC
AND ICCS CONVOYS, BUT THAT THE PRG HAS NOT YET REPLIED.(CONGEN
BIEN HOA COMMENT: MR 3 CG LTG NGUYEN VAN MINH STATED APRIL 21
THAT THE RVN IS READY TO OPEN HIGHWAY 13 TO CIVILIAN TRAFFIC.)

4. CANDEL CHIEF ALSO SAYS THAT SINCE THE AN LOC TEAM IS UNABLE
TO VISIT PHUOC LONG PROVINCE, HE HAS ASKED ICCS SAIGON TO GET A
PRG GUARANTEE OF SAFETY FOR THE CHIEFS OF REGION V DELEGATIONS
TO GO FROM BIEN HOA TO SNG BE APRIL 27 BY CHOPPER.

5. CONGEN BIEN HOA COMMENTS THERE IS GROWING DISILLUSIONMENT IN
THE RANKS OF THE ICCS IN MR 3. THE CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS,
MOSTLY THE LATTER, APPEAR TO VIEW THEIR ROLES AS A WASTE OF TIME,
MONEY AND EFFORT. THE PARTIES TO THE ACCORD, THEY FEEL, ARE NOT
INTERESTED IN A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES; MOREOVER, THE
HUNGARIANS AND POLES ARE UNCOOPERATIVE AND OBSTRUCTIVE, AND
DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE PRG. CONGEN BIEN HOA
OBSERVES THAT THE CANADIANS ARE BEGINNING TO WONDER IF THEIR
CONTINUED PRESENCE IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF CANADA; THEY
ARE, HOWEVER, STILL TRYING TO MAKE THE ICCS WORK.

PART X: MR 4

1. THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN MR IV REMAINED ABOUT THE SAME. THE GVN REPORTED THIRTY- SIX VC/ NVA- INITIATED INCIDENTS: 3 GROUND ATTACKS, 4 INFILTRATIONS, 16 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 11 OTHER MINOR HARASSMENTS, AND TWO ACTS OF SABOTAGE. THE MOST VIOLENCE OCCURRED IN CHUONG THIEN, WITH 10 REPORTED INCIDENTS, AND DINH TUONG, WITH 5. THE RVNAF CARRIED OUT 10" SECURITY OPERATIONS". CASUALTIES FOR THE DAY TOTALED 14 RVNAF KILLED AND 88 WOUNDED, WITH 30 VC/ NVA KILLED AND 1 CAPTURED.

2. THE ARVN MR-4 INTELLIGENCE HAS PROVIDED CONGEN CAN THO WITH LATEST ESTIMATE OF CURRENT VC/ NVA INTENTIONS. THE CURRENT ARVN INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT NOTABLY DOES NOT INCLUDE A COORDINATED OR BROAD OFFENSIVE IN MR-4 DURING THE COMING WEEKS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE HONG NGU AREA, WHERE IT IS EXPECTED THAT ENEMY ATTACKS WILL CONTINUE, THE NVA/ VC DO NOT APPEAR TO BE TARGETTING ANY MAJOR POSITIONS HELD BY THE GVN AND THE COMMUNISTS ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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BELIEVED TO INTEND TO LIMIT THEIR OPERATIONS OVER THE SHORT RUN TO MORE TRADITIONAL OBJECTIVES, SUCH AS SECURING SUPPLY ROUTES AND TARGETTING GVN OUTPOSTS. CONGEN CAN THO AGREES WITH THIS ASSESSMENT.

3. REGARDING HONG NGU, ARVN INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES THAT THE PROVISIONALLY DESIGNATED NVA 9 B DIV WILL CONTINUE ITS DRIVE IN THAT AREA FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IT WILL ROTATE ELEMENTS INTO THE BATTLE, ALLOWING OTHERS TO REST AND REFIT. THE TWO REGIMENTS OF THE NVA 5 TH DIV, PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TO BE MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF HONG NGU FROM THEIR BASES IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE, NOW APPEAR HEADED FOR CAMBODIAN SANCTUARIES, AND THEIR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT AGAINST HONG NGU IS THUS CONSIDERED LESS LIKELY, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY EVENTUALLY BE COMMITTED IN THAT AREA. ARVN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT THE NVA 271 ST REGIMENT IS, HOWEVER, CURRENTLY ENROUTE TO THE HONG NGU AREA FROM MR-3 AND IS NOW TRANSITTING HAU NGHIA PROVINCE. IF TRUE, THE VC/ NVA SOON WILL HAVE FOUR MAIN FORCE INFANTRY REGIMENTS DEPLOYED AGAINST FRIENDLY FORCES IN HONG NGU DISTRICT. THE SEIZURE OF AN ENTRY POINT AT HONG NGU REMAINS THE TOP ENEMY PRIORITY IN THE DELTA, ARVN INTELLIGENCE BELIEVES. (FULL REPORT, CAN THO 237, FORWARDED SEPTEL.)

4. COL TRAN TRANH NHIEU, KIEN PHONG PROVINCE CHIEF, RECENTLY TOLD A POLOFF THAT VC/ NVA OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN HONG NGU HAVE TWO PURPOSES: (A) TO WREST AS MUCH TERRITORY AS POSSIBLE FROM THE GVN, BEFORE THE VIETNAMESE PARTIES BEGIN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS, AND (B) TO TEST THE WILL OF THE US TO ENFORCE THE PARIS AGREEMENTS. IF THE UNITED STATES HAD SIGNED THE PARIS ACCORDS MERELY TO EXTRICATE ITSELF FROM THE WAR, HE SAID, THE COMMUNISTS COULD VIOLATE THE CEASEFIRE WITH IMPUNITY.

ALTHOUGH CONCERNED ABOUT DOVISH POLITICAL PRESSURE IN AMERICA,
COL NHIEM IS ENCOURAGED BY PRESIDENT NIXON' S ACTIONS IN ORDERING
BOMBING IN CAMBODIA AND LAOS.

5. POLOFF IN SOC TRANG REPORTS THAT GVN SECURITY OPERATIONS
LAST WEEK IN THE SPECIAL INTERPROVINCIAL TACTICAL ZONE ALONG THE
BORDER BETWEEN BAC LIEU AND BA XUYEN HAS PRODUCED GOOD RESULTS.
THREE OPERATIONS RESULTED IN ELEVEN KVC KILLED, TWO VC CAMPDS
BROKEN UP, 400 KILOS OF RICE DESTROYED, AND WEAPONS, MUNITIONS,
MEDICINE, SAMPANS, AND DOCUMENTS CAPTURED.
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6. THE KHANH HUNG ICCS MOVED WITH IMPRESSIVE SPEED ON APRIL 25 TO
INVESTIGATE AN ALLEGED VC- INITIATED INCIDENT IN MY XUYEN DISTRICT OF
BA XUYEN PROVINCE. THE VC REPORTEDLY ATTACKED A PSDF/ PF TEAM ON
HAMLET GUARD DUTY AT 230
E E E E E E E

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: CORE6
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Line Count: 620
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
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Subject: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT APRIL 26 1973
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, VS
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CAN THO
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Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

